

**Towamencin Township
Board of Supervisors
Work Session
February 8, 2023
7:00 PM**

Present:

H. Charles Wilson III, Chairman
Richard Marino, Vice Chairman
Laura Smith, Secretary
Kristin Warner, Treasurer
Joyce F. Snyder, Asst. Treasurer/Asst. Secretary

Staff:

David G. Kraynik, Township Manager
Robert J. Iannozzi, Jr., Esq., Township Solicitor
Tom Zarko, Township Engineer
Niral Modi, IT Staff
Timothy Troxel, Chief of Police

Present Remotely:

Colleen Ehrle, Director of Administration

Absent:

Chairman Wilson called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM and led the assemblage in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Awards & Recognition

Recognition of Retirement: Lieutenant Jeffrey Kratz

Chief Troxel introduced Jeff Kratz, expressing his appreciation for Jeff's career of service and for him personally as a friend, over the last 2 years, assisting him as he settled into his role as Chief in early 2021.

The Board then recognized Lieutenant Jeffrey Kratz's recent retirement. Jeff served as a member of Towamencin's Police Department for over 35 years, serving as Lieutenant since 2008. Jeff has had a distinguished 38-year career in law enforcement. Jeff began his career as a police officer at Lower Salford Township in 1985 prior to joining Towamencin in 1987. Jeff's support and advocacy of the Laurel House was also acknowledged, having been as a major force behind the law enforcement partnership, the Domestic Abuse Response Team (DART) program - supporting domestic violence victims in Montgomery County.

The Board of Supervisors congratulated Jeff for his exemplary career at Towamencin Township, and for protecting the public for almost four decades, presenting him with a commendation.

On a motion by Supervisor Smith, seconded by Supervisor Marino, the Board approved the commendation to Jeff Kratz.

Voting Yes: H. Charles Wilson, III, Richard Marino, Laura Smith, Kristin Warner, Joyce F. Snyder

Voting No: N/A

Abstaining: N/A

Absent: N/A

Following the Board's commendation, State Senator Tracy Pennycuick presented Jeff with a citation from the State Senate, along with the prepared citation from State Rep. Liz Hanbidge.

Jeff thanked the current Board, and previous Boards, along with the Towamencin Community who have supported him and the department over the years. He then acknowledged the work of the police department and concluded by acknowledging the support and sacrifices made by the families of every police officer, especially his wife and children.

Opening Comments

Chairman Wilson made the following announcements:

- The meeting is being held in person at the Township's Meeting Hall and also provided via Zoom for residents unable to attend in person. Public comments submitted by 4:30 pm on the meeting day would be read at the start of the meeting.
- The Township's Planning Commission continues to work with consultant, Simone Collins, on the Connectivity Study. The next Connectivity Study Public Meeting will take place on Thursday, February 9, at 7 pm, in the Meeting Hall.
- The Board met in Executive Session before the meeting to discuss personnel matters.

Public Comments

Resident Kofi Osei, provided his perspective on electric vehicles, specifically municipalities seeking grants to fund charging station infrastructure. He opposed Towamencin seeking such grant funding, wary that may lead to future maintenance obligations borne onto taxpayers.

Resident Joe Silverman reported an incident along Bustard Road and Sumneytown Pike, where sand was left on the roadway by the intersection earlier in the day. He added his concern that there is no current road tax for electric vehicle use.

Chief Troxel noted there was a vehicle crash earlier in the day with oil/fuel leaking onto the road. PennDOT assisted with the spill by sending a response team who saturated the road with sand to absorb the material. Police checked the area for safety, noting the surface was not slick.

Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Supervisor Snyder, seconded by Supervisor Warner, the Board approved the January 25, 2023 minutes.

Voting Yes: H. Charles Wilson, III, Richard Marino, Laura Smith, Kristin Warner, Joyce F. Snyder
Voting No: N/A
Abstaining: N/A
Absent: N/A

Zoning, Subdivision and Land Development

Ordinance 23-01: Amendment to Grading Permit

The Township's Codes Department requested an amendment to the grading permit. This amended ordinance will revise the definition of grading to "the changing of the natural topography through cutting or filing an area exceeding 1,500 square feet, or in which the natural drainage pattern of a lot is altered" and amend the text when a grading permit is not required. The 1,500 SF measurement change corresponds with the stormwater ordinance exemption threshold.

On a motion by Supervisor Smith, seconded by Supervisor Marino, the Board adopted Ordinance 23-01, amendment to grading permit.

Voting Yes: H. Charles Wilson, III, Richard Marino, Laura Smith, Kristin Warner, Joyce F. Snyder
Voting No: N/A
Abstaining: N/A
Absent: N/A

Old Business

None

New Business

Appointment of Director of Planning, Zoning and Code Enforcement

Will R. Brugger has been offered conditional employment as the Township's New Director of Planning, Zoning and Code Enforcement. Will currently works at Exeter Township in Berks County, in their Engineering Department as the Department Head, and has been there over 5 years. Will's experience includes: managing his department staff, serving as zoning officer, performing plan reviews, processing permits, and site inspections. Will received his Bachelor of Science Degree from Bloomsburg University and anticipates receiving his Master of Public Administration at Kutztown University this May.

On a motion by Supervisor Snyder, seconded by Supervisor Smith, the Board appointed Will R. Brugger as Director of Planning, Zoning and Code Enforcement, as well as, Zoning Officer and Building Code Official.

Voting Yes: H. Charles Wilson, III, Richard Marino, Laura Smith, Kristin Warner, Joyce F. Snyder

Voting No: N/A
Abstaining: N/A
Absent: N/A

Will Brugger thanked the Board for the opportunity and extended his thanks to Wiesner Consulting LLC and Township Manager David Kraynik for their assistance during the interview/review process. He looks forward to serving Towamencin Township and its residents.

Ordinance 23-02: Amend Sewer Rentals and Charges

An ordinance amendment must be enacted to incorporate the newly adopted sewer penalty waiver policy into the Township's Code. The amendment to Article V, Section 127-36, Sub-Section (B) will be amended as follows:

If the full amount of such bills shall not be paid within 120 days from the date of billing, 10% of the face amount of the bill shall be added thereto, which together with the face amount of the bill shall become the gross amount thereof. In the event any bill shall remain unpaid as of December 31 of any year, the Township shall proceed to collect all sums due in accordance with law. The Board of Supervisors may adopt a written policy expressly waiving this 10% penalty under limited circumstances as set forth in the approved policy.

On a motion by Supervisor Smith, seconded by Supervisor Warner, the Board adopted Ordinance 23-02, Amend Sewer Rentals and Charges.

Voting Yes: H. Charles Wilson, III, Richard Marino, Laura Smith, Kristin Warner, Joyce F. Snyder

Voting No: N/A

Abstaining: N/A

Absent: N/A

Authorization to Award Contract: Storm Sewer Repair/Rehabilitation Project

The Township Engineer has completed reviewing the bid submissions for the Storm Sewer Repair/Rehabilitation Project. This project involves improvements or repairs of existing storm drainage facilities in the Kriebel Road, Orchard Lane, Eagle Way, and Valley View Way areas of the Township. The work to be performed includes: the removal/disposal of sections of storm sewer piping, installation of new storm sewer piping, installation of inlets, headwalls and endwalls, and the installation of rip-rap aprons and associated roadway and unimproved area restoration.

The Township Engineer recommends the project contract be awarded to the low bidder, B.P. Paterson, Inc., of King of Prussia at the bid price of \$729,818.50, after a satisfactory review of their references and qualifications.

On a motion by Supervisor Marino, seconded by Supervisor Smith, the Board awarded the Storm Sewer Repair/Rehabilitation Project contract to B.P. Paterson, Inc.

Voting Yes: H. Charles Wilson, III, Richard Marino, Laura Smith, Kristin Warner, Joyce F. Snyder
Voting No: N/A
Abstaining: N/A
Absent: N/A

Request for Flat Fee for Field Rental (Bustard Park remote field) – Senior Softball League

A senior softball league has been renting a field (B3) at Bustard Park over the last several years twice weekly from spring through fall. The group is requesting to rent the field on Monday and Wednesday morning weekly, as well as, one Friday morning each month. The use would occur between May 1st through November 30, 2023. They are requesting to keep the same \$400 flat fee paid in 2022. TYA officials confirmed there are no major programming conflicts with this request.

On a motion by Supervisor Marino, seconded by Supervisor Smith, the Board approved the senior softball league's request to use the Bustard Park remote field as noted for a flat fee of \$400.

Voting Yes: H. Charles Wilson, III, Richard Marino, Laura Smith, Kristin Warner, Joyce F. Snyder
Voting No: N/A
Abstaining: N/A
Absent: N/A

Acceptance of Police Donation

The Police Department recently received a donation from Wilbur Eastlack for \$200. The Board must consider acceptance of this gift in accordance with the Township's donation policy.

On a motion by Supervisor Warner, seconded by Supervisor Snyder, the Board accepted the police donation on behalf of the Police Department.

Voting Yes: H. Charles Wilson, III, Richard Marino, Laura Smith, Kristin Warner, Joyce F. Snyder
Voting No: N/A
Abstaining: N/A
Absent: N/A

Volunteer Committee Appointments

Residents have submitted applications expressing their interest to serve on the Township's various volunteer committees. The Board considered the following volunteer committee appointments:

- Shannon Main - Strategic Planning Committee, term to expire December 31, 2023
- Bill Dauphinee - Veterans Advisory Committee, term to expire December 31, 2024

On a motion by Supervisor Smith, seconded by Supervisor Warner, the Board appointed Shannon Main to the Strategic Planning Committee.

Voting Yes: H. Charles Wilson, III, Richard Marino, Laura Smith, Kristin Warner, Joyce F. Snyder

Voting No: N/A

Abstaining: N/A

Absent: N/A

On a motion by Supervisor Smith, seconded by Supervisor Marino, the Board reappointed Bill Dauphinee to the Veterans Advisory Committee.

Voting Yes: H. Charles Wilson, III, Richard Marino, Laura Smith, Kristin Warner, Joyce F. Snyder

Voting No: N/A

Abstaining: N/A

Absent: N/A

There being no additional business, the meeting adjourned at 7:38 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Colleen Ehrle

Director of Administration